

RUSSIAN RIVER BASIN PLAN AMENDMENTS

DESCRIPTION:

- SCWA and the NCRWQCB entered into an agreement to expedite the review of the Water Quality Control Plan for the North Coast Region (Basin Plan)
- NCRWQCB's reviews Basin Plan to determine if existing water quality standards and objectives for the Russian River watershed are adequate to protect the beneficial uses of cold water habitat for listed salmonids
- Requires extensive literature review, water quality monitoring, economic analysis, public review, and development and adoption of proposed Basin Plan Amendments
- Based on initial literature review, the NCRWQCB has proposed Basin Plan amendments for dissolved oxygen, temperature, sediment and aluminum
- Implementation of proposed Basin Plan Amendments will assist entities discharging to the Russian River watershed by ensuring that activities permitted in compliance with the Basin Plan are also in compliance with the Clean Water Act and the Federal Endangered Species Act.
- The Basin Plan Amendment project will greatly facilitate this process by augmenting the North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board's budget and staffing to complete the revision

PROJECT GOAL

Help streamline permitting requirements while promoting the recovery of listed salmonids in the Russian River Watershed.

PARTNERSHIPS

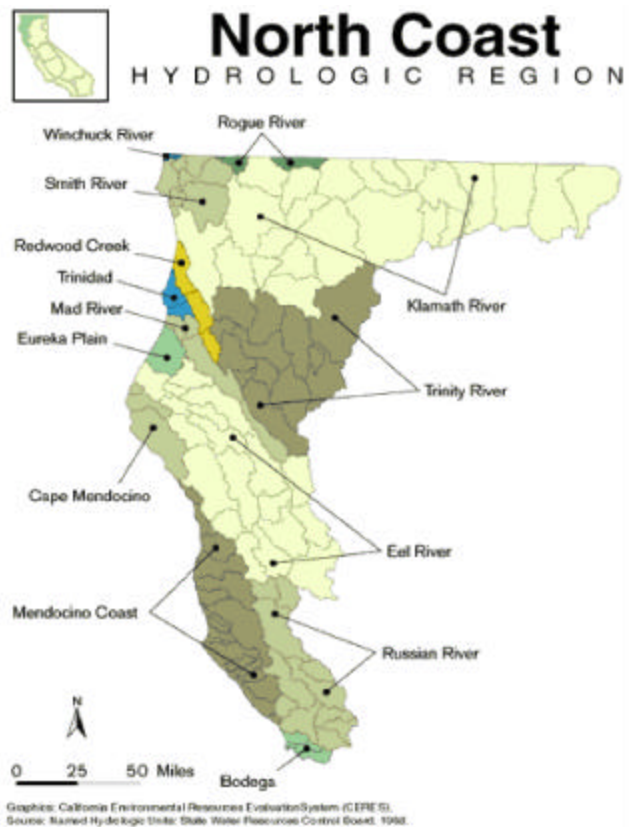
- California Regional Water Quality Control Board, North Coast Region
- Sonoma County Water Agency

The State Water Resources Control Board and the nine Regional Water Quality Control Boards work together to protect California's water resources. With passage of the Porter-Cologne Water Quality Control Act in 1969, the Boards became the "principal state agencies with primary responsibility for the coordination and control of water quality."

The nine Regional Boards are each semi-autonomous and comprise nine part-time Board members appointed by the Governor. Regional boundaries are based on and consistent with major State watersheds. Each Regional Board makes water quality planning and regulatory decisions for its region. These decisions include issuing State waste discharge requirements or recommending Clean Water Act certification for activities affecting wetlands and other water bodies. The North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board's jurisdictional responsibilities include watersheds in Sonoma, Mendocino, Humboldt, Del Norte, Siskiyou, and Trinity counties.



Aerial view of the Russian River at the confluence with Mark West Creek



North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board Jurisdictional Boundary

Under the Clean Water Act and California's Porter-Cologne Act, the Regional Boards must prepare, review and update a water quality control plan that contains an inventory of the beneficial uses of water in the Russian River watershed. The plan must include an implementation plan, monitoring plan and timeline to achieve water quality objectives.